

SCRIPT TALK

January/February 2011 Volume # 39 Issue # 163



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**Spring Scrip Show
April 29 & 30, 2011
Beckley, WV**

Elkhorn Marrowbone Coal
Wolf Pit, KY
Edkins KY 3077 B-100 (unlisted)

Spring Scrip Show



Where:

Country Inns & Suites' Mountaineer Conference Center

When:

Friday, April 29 - 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 30 - 8 a.m. to Noon

Room Reservations:

Pamela Smith— 304/252-5100

Mention the NSCA to receive the show discount

Show Information:

Garrett Salyers: gsalyers@hotmail.com

606-286-5056

*Come ready to buy, sell, trade, make friends,
and tell stories!*

**WEST VIRGINIA COAL & COKE CO
JUNIOR MERCHANTILE CO
HARDING, W VA**

Billy W. Campbell

According to Gordon Dodrill in his book "20,000 Coal Company Stories" Junior Mercantile Co had 19 stores. Davis Colliery Co. used six of them and of the six, four were also used by West Va. Coal & Cole Corp. one of the four was The Harding Store. Dodrill shows the min operating from 1919 to 1931. Davis Colliery Co. and Junior Mercantile Co. at Harding were in operation from 1904 to 1917. This is shown on page 124, No. J448. Junior Mercantile tokens were known.

The website of West Virginia Miners Health Safety and Training has listed Harding No. 3 in Randolph County operating from 1917- to 1928.

The 1914 West Virginia annual report of the Department of Mines states Davis Colliery Co. operated the Harding No. 1, 3 and 5 mines at Harding, W.Va. in Randolph County.

The 1920 West Virginia annual report of the Department of Mines states West Virginia Coal & Coke Co. operating Harding No. 3 mine at Harding, W.Va. The mine produced 82,724 tons of coal with 16,905 tons of code and 54,304 tons of coal being shipped from the site. Ninety one men were employed at the mine in 1920.

The 1927 West Virginia annual report of The Department of Mines states that Harding Mine produced almost 76,000 tons of coal with a workforce of 94 men employed.

Donald Edkins in his catalogue of United States Coal Company Stores Scrip does not have this town or store in the book. The information supplied above should be enough for this town to be added in the next catalogue revision. I have assigned an Edkins number for the town of Harding [1225] also I have a seven piece set of Junior Mercantile Co./Harding W.Va. scrip A1 through A500 in my collection. They have the R cutout and is an ICS product. The \$5.00 token has a mintage of 100 pieces.



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Resources from the NSCA

Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

Volume 1, Third Edition

This 380 page hardcover book lists almost 9000 pieces of scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value.

Issued by the *NSCA*, this is the recognized guide for collecting and valuing scrip. Volume 1 lists scrip from 36 states, not including West Virginia which is the subject of Volume 2. This is the latest edition and also includes a wealth of information about the history of scrip. Sections include: Early Coal History; Scrip Heritage; How Scrip was Used; Fakes; and a look at the makers of scrip.

MEMBER COST: \$35 + \$6 shipping

Edkins Catalogue of United States Coal Company Scrip

Volume 2, Third Edition

This 370 page hardcover book lists over 7,400 pieces of West Virginia coal mine scrip. Information includes the company that issued the piece, denominations issued in the series, material the piece is composed of, diameter, shape, visual representation of any cut-out in the piece, and a rarity rating that gives a suggested value. The definitive guide to West Virginia scrip.

Issued by the *NSCA*, this is the latest edition. Volume 2 lists scrip from West Virginia. This is the current edition and includes a wealth of information about the history and use of scrip, as well as the actual listings of individual pieces.

MEMBER COST: \$40 + \$6 shipping

EXPLOSIVE CONTROL TOKENS

This extensively illustrated volume is the most thorough study of exploder tokens ever written. Contents include: Metals & Compositions, Sizes & Shapes, Valuations, Manufacturers, Counterfeits, Re-strikes, a cross reference to the Edkins catalogues, and more. A fascinating glimpse at the history of a variety of coal mine operations, in addition to its specific focus on exploders. 140 pages, hard cover.

MEMBER COST: \$20 + \$6 shipping

CATALOGUE OF LUMBER COMPANY STORE TOKENS

This book is very similar to the *Edkins* coal scrip books that are the standard for valuing and collecting coal company scrip; but this 575 page hardcover book is dedicated completely to listing the thousands of styles of lumber scrip issued in the past by logging and lumber companies in all 50 states, including maverick listings. Published by the *NSCA*.

Not only is the value and complete description of each denomination of scrip individually listed, but many companies have a short paragraph about their history of operation, the facilities they owned, or the amount of track laid by the company. A wealth of information for the lumber token collector.

MEMBER COST: \$40 + \$6 shipping

ORDER FORM

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— EDKINS vol 1 \$35

— EDKINS vol 2 \$40

— Explosive Tokens \$20

— Lumber Catalogue \$40

Shipping: \$6 for the first item, \$2 each additional

SCRIP TALK 1818 HARPER RD BECKLEY WV 25801

—FORGOTTEN NAMES IN HISTORY:

AXAJ, HIMLER, EUGENE

Jim Lackey

The history of coal mining in Mingo County, WV, started with the building of the Norfolk & Western Railway Company tracks through the Tug Valley westward to Ohio in the early 1890s. As soon as the tracks were completed the coal industry started to flourish.

Many operations were not stable and changed hands often. One particular operation of interest to scrip collectors would be the one located at Ajax, which is about one mile below the village of Lenore on Pigeon Creek. Lenore was known as Eugene in the late 1890s and early 1900s.

The coal industry located there started as the Mattie May Coal and Coke Company in 1907. By 1908 the operation had changed hands and was being run as the Ajax Coal Company. This lasted until 1914 when, again, the company changed, this time to the Mingo Washed Coal Company. Through all these owners the mine was known as the Mattie May Mine.

By 1916 the name had changed again, to the Ohio Blue Ridge Coal Company, and the name of the mine was changed to Blue Ridge Mine.

In 1918, Martin Himler, a highly educated Hungarian who had immigrated to the United States in 1907 purchased the works from the Ohio Blue Ridge Coal Company and the operation thereafter was known as the Himler Coal Company K-15.

Himler had arrived in New York, penniless, on May 9, 1907. He was only nineteen years old but spoke six languages. By the age of 30 he had become an American citizen, a writer, publisher, and a banker. He established a Hungarian language newspaper, the *Hungarian Miners Journal*, which was popular in the coal fields of America.

His goal was to build a mine and camp where his employees could work and live, but by the 1920s he sold his holdings to John Matta and redirected his focus to Martin county, KY, a few miles down the Tug River, and established the town of Himlerville, now know as Beauty. Matta promptly began operation of the Matta Co-Operative Coal Company, Inc. Scrip collectors will occasionally see a piece of Matt Co-operative scrip on the market, but they are not common and carry a high R rating. No other scrip from the six operations had been known until the fall of 2010 when a piece of Mingo Washed Coal, Eugene, WV, surfaced.

Such are the pleasant surprises that we, who love this hobby, are subject to experience. To-day, if you travel from Naugatuck to Lenore, you would probably never guess where Ajax (Himler) was or realize that Lenore was once Eugene ... unless you were a collector of scrip.



Mingo Co.



Mingo Co.



1333A50

GN

1333A100

GN



Himler (Lenore)



Himler (Lenore)

NSCA Free Ads for Members

Free Ads are available to N.S.C.A. members at no charge. The only requirements being that they are limited to 4 lines, one ad per issue. You may send up to four different ads in one mailing. Deadline for Free Ads is three weeks after the postmark of the current issue of SCRIP TALK. All ads received after the deadline will be held for the following issue. No ad will rerun automatically, each issue will require a separate request. Paid ads should be sent to SCRIP TALK Editor and NOT the Free Ad Editor. SEND ALL FREE ADS TO: Steve Ratliff, N.S.C.A. Free Ad Editor, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, Florida 32583-7343. More and more scriptors are using the convenience of email to submit their ads; send to Steve@Ratliff.com (Note: + at the end of your ad indicates you need to renew it.)

WANTED: VIRGINIA COAL AND MERCHANT TOKENS. I collect all areas of Virginia and I especially like the southwestern section of Virginia. I'll make a cash offer or trade if I have something of interest to you. John Taylor, 423-246-9126 or johntaylor@chartertn.net +

AMERICAN COAL OF ALLEGANY COUNTY. Pinnacle Mine - McComas, WV 194_ Paper check (looks like a bank check) for Iron Wire Exploders and Sticks of Monobel. A very interesting piece. \$15.00 postpaid. Paper coupon scrip from GAINESVILLE (FL) Ice & Cold Stg Co. Ice Coupon. \$5.00 + SASE. Steven Kawalec, P.O. Box 4281, Clifton, NJ 07012 owlproowler@aol.com (937) 868-9258 +

TOP DOLLARS PAID FOR CARBIDE CAP LAMPS, oil wick/lard lamps, blasting cap tins, scatter tags, carbide lamp parts and other small mining artifacts that I may need in my collection. I will pay more than anyone for items needed for my collection. Contact Larry Click, 1021 N. Jefferson St., Arlington, VA 22205-2454, 703-241-3748 or email Larry-Click@msn.com

FLORIDA TOKENS WANTED - FLORIDA TOKENS OF ALL TYPES WANTED. Send 61¢ stamp for free sample of Florida Token Society's newsletter, TOKENNEWS and request free Florida token. Check out the Florida Token Society web site: <http://www.floridatokensociety.com> you can join and pay dues on-line! Steve Ratliff, 1717 Saint Marys Bay Drive, Milton, FL 32583-7343 Steve@Ratliff.com check out my EBay sales, many pieces of coal scrip. All starting at 99 cents. Search florida-token-collector, be sure to click box for "Include title and description." Also looking for original or good copies of Florida B&D directories.

TRADING OR SELLING TOKENS, 2 stamps gets list. I have tokens: KY, IN, OH, NE, IA, also transportation tokens, coal, good for, lumber, Hobo nickels, casino chips. Gene Miller, 3306 Startan Ct., Louisville, KY 40220

A REMINDER, "+" AFTER YOUR AD MEANS
IT IS TIME TO RENEW



Some members have expressed an interest in sharing contact information through the Scrip Talk, to make it easier to talk together about scrip related issues. If you'd like to share your email address or phone number with the members of the club, send the information to Scrip Talk [304/222-2215 or ktraube@suddenlink.net] to be published in a future issue.

